

**WENHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2005**

Attending:

Board Members: Jack Hauck, Luci Lynch, Jean Marchant, Kit Richardson.

Associate Members: Roseann Brozenske, Marion D'Ambrosio, Barbara Morrell and John Suminsby

COA Director Trudy Reid and Van Supervisor John Marks

Guests: Jean and Dick Eddy

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. by Chairman Hauck. He noted that due to the absence of Jane Richardson and Merle Welsh, no quorum was present. Those members present voted to continue the Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of June 14, 2005 were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: The Chairman reported that he has received a list of COA expenses for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2005, and noted that the Council was "over" by \$178.71. A brief review showed that the Salary for the Director, was right on-the-nose. Among the items over were: Newsletters; supplies; and Social programs. (He commented that for some reason we were refunded the cost of the Holiday plants). Other items such as Telephone were well under projected amounts. The Chairman and the Director will get together and try to come up with more realistic figures for the budget.

TRIPS Jane Richardson was not present to give her report, however the Chairman stated that she is really in need of some assistance with future planning. Roseann Brozenske volunteered to give her a hand.

VAN: John Marks distributed the van statistics. He noted that the percentage of Wenham usage continues to grow and some days is 50-50 with Hamilton. Medical trips still constitute the major share of rideship. Concern about the increase in gas prices was expressed. John stated that the Van uses about 137 Gal. per month. Donation amounts are running about \$107 per month. He reported that the Van is scheduled for detailing very soon. It was noted that Senior Care has money available for Vans and we should be prepared to petition them. John also remarked that there is some concern about Hamilton's continued participation in the program with Wenham. They may decide to provide their own Van. Discussions are on-going. In response to a question, John stated that there is a waiting list of people who would like to be drivers. He also noted that all ridership data is being added to the Star Program, the computer program on Seniors which provides the basis for future Grant requests.

COFFEES The Director reported that the first Coffee of the new season will be on

Saturday, September 17th. The guest Speaker will be Susan Cripps from SHINE, who will be discussing the new Medicare Part D, scheduled to begin later this year. Ms Cripps will also be speaking on this subject on Nov. 10th at the Library. The Guest Speakers for October 1st will be from Windover Development and a Representative from the H-W Open Land Trust who will discuss the plans for the Dodge property. On October 15th the speaker will be Maridee Feeherry, from North Shore Nutritional Services.

DIRECTOR * *Building Repairs*: Trudy reported that thanks to the support of Jeff Chelgren we now have new tables, chairs and carpeting. She continues to work on the lighting needs for the building.

**Grant Applications*: We had the opportunity to apply for a grant for assistance in obtaining information of Medicare Part D, however it was decided not to submit this year. She will continue to check on other Grants available to us.

**Leaf Bag Program*: At the suggestion of Jeff Chelgren a letter to the Selectmen was prepared requesting funds for the purchase of Leaf Bags from a Town Account. Hansbury's will give us a discounted price.

**Log Bridge Luncheons*: Last Year the Council spent a total of \$215 to provide these to Wenham Seniors. The Director feels there may be better uses for this money. It was agreed that in future Seniors would be asked to pay the \$5 cost to attend.

**Merchant Discount Program*: A couple of new business have been contacted, but have not responded to date. Trudy would like to try some Beverly merchants, since our business base is so small.

**Newsletter*: One letter was sent to cover the summer months and September's was mailed on the 1st of this month. A new Calendar was added to highlight community happenings. She would appreciate hearing of any up-coming events to be included in the future. At the Director's suggestion it was agreed to include a section featuring items Seniors would like to donate or sell (reasonably priced).

**Pleasant Pond Discount Program*: Beginning in 2006 required parking stickers for residents will be \$15. The Director is suggesting that the Town offer them to Seniors for \$5. She will keep us posted.

**SHINE*: This organization provides information and assistance with Insurance matters. The speaker at Saturday's Coffee will provide a good opportunity to learn more.

**TRIAD*: The Director is very pleased with this program, and the support from local Police. Many "File of Life" cards were distributed on Wenham Day, and will also be available at Enon Village on September 19th. This program offers a wide variety of assistance to Seniors, such as: free 911 Cell phones; Yellow Dot; Senior Identity Cards; classes in self-defense etc. While this is NOT a COA program, we are a sponsor.

**Senior Database*: Over the summer about 60 new seniors were added as a result of the Town census information. These will be included in the COA mailing list, and Discount Cards sent to them. She would appreciate learning of any new people who may not have been included.

**Website Update*: The Chief of Police has given his approval for Officer Jon Gray to set up a website for the COA. A real plus!

**Joint WCOA & HCOA Programs:* The Hamilton Council has been invited to join us for the Medicare Part D Program on November 10th. Hopefully, they will get the word out to their seniors. The Director has mentioned the possibility of the two councils doing other programs together several times but has received no encouragement.

In conclusion, the Director announced that the date for the Special Town Meeting has been set for Wednesday October 5th at 7:30, and the Over-ride Election for October 12th. She also mentioned that she has been informed the Town is very pleased with the what the COA has been doing to date.

OLD BUSINESS:

Friends: The Chairman once again stressed the importance of getting a Friends group up and running. This is necessary if we are going to be able receive tax free donations. The main need is for someone to spearhead the operation. While Board members are not permitted to hold an office in a Friends group, we can certainly provide support. Volunteers are the first requirement. So far all pleas for this help have been fruitless.

Senior Center: While the appearance of this building has taken great strides forward, the opportunity to take over this property seems to several years away, since it is the main meeting room for many Town Boards and Committees until a new Town Hall is built.

New Members: Due to the fact we lost three long-time members last year, the Board decided to vote at the October 11th Meeting on the candidates who have volunteered to serve: Marion D'Ambrosio, Roseann Brozenske, Barbara Morrell and Dick and Jean Eddy. Each was given a copy of the By Laws and Mission Statement to review.

New Business

Programs for the Current Year:

The Chairman asked Board Members to think about what we want to do and where do we want to go as a Council! Some possible ideas include: a Drop in center, Friendly Visitor Program, Fuel Assistance, help for Meals on Wheels, Property Tax Write-off Program, SHINE Program, an Outreach Program, and a Volunteer Driver Program. The Chairman closed the Meeting by suggesting members invite a guest to the Oct. Meeting.

The Meeting adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

Next Meeting: **October 11, 2005**

Lucille Lynch

Secretary